

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method of providing a user status message in an instant messaging system, comprising:

obtaining a user status message associated with an owner user;

sensing a user request to edit said user status message;

providing a user interface for editing said user status message, wherein said editing includes adding a new entry to said user status message;

inputting, through said user interface for adding said new entry to said user status message, information to include within said new entry; and

adding said new entry to said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry includes inserting a time at which said new entry was added into said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry to said user status message further includes adding said new entry to a plurality of previous entries maintained within said user status message, wherein said new entry and said previous entries together provide an editing history of said status message to other users.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said adding said new entry further comprises inserting a date at which said new entry was added into said user status message.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said adding said new entry further comprises inserting an identifier of a user associated with said request to edit said user status message.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

detecting a character string having a predetermined format within said new entry; and  
forming a link to a web page through said character having said predetermined format.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

creating a new web page on a predetermined server system responsive to said detecting said character string having a predetermined format within said new entry, wherein said link to said web page comprises a link to said new web page, and wherein said new web page is an user editable web page.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

presenting an interface to said owner user associated with said user status message, wherein said interface enables said owner user to indicate at least one other user that is allowed to add an entry to said user status message; and

preventing users other than said at least one other user and said owner user associated with said user status message from adding an entry to said user status message.

7. (currently amended) A system of providing a user status message in an instant messaging system, comprising:

means for obtaining a user status message associated with an owner user;

means for sensing a user request to edit said user status message;

means for providing a user interface for editing said user status message, wherein said editing includes adding a new entry to said user status message;

means for inputting, through said interface for adding said new entry to said user status message, information to include within said new entry; and

means for adding said new entry to said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry includes inserting a time at which said new entry was added into said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry to said user status message further includes adding said new entry to a plurality of previous entries maintained within said user status message, wherein said new entry and said previous entries together provide an editing history of said status message to other users.

8. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein said means for adding said new entry further comprises means for inserting a date at which said new entry was added into said user status message.

9. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein said means for adding said new entry further comprises means for inserting an identifier of a user associated with said request to edit said user status message.

10. (original) The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for detecting a character string having a predetermined format within said new entry; and

means for forming a link to a web page through said character having said predetermined format.

11. (original) The system of claim 10, further comprising:

means for creating a new web page on a predetermined server system responsive to said detecting said character string having a predetermined format within said new entry, wherein said link to said web page comprises a link to said new web page, and wherein said new web page is an user editable web page.

12. (previously presented) The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for presenting an interface to said owner user associated with said user status message, wherein said interface enables said owner user to indicate at least one other user that is allowed to add an entry to said user status message; and

means for preventing users other than said at least one other user and said owner user associated with said user status message from adding an entry to said user status message.

13. (currently amended) A computer program product, wherein said computer program product includes a computer readable medium, said computer readable medium having a computer program for providing a user status message in an instant messaging system stored thereon, said computer program comprising:

program code for obtaining a user status message associated with an owner user;

program code for sensing a user request to edit said user status message;

program code for providing a user interface for editing said user status message, wherein said editing includes adding a new entry to said user status message;

program code for inputting, through said interface for adding said new entry to said user status message, information to include within said new entry; and

program code for adding said new entry to said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry includes inserting a time at which said new entry was added into said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry to said user status message further includes adding said new entry to a plurality of previous entries maintained within said user status message, wherein said new entry and said previous entries together provide an editing history of said status message to other users.

14. (original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein said program code for adding said new entry further comprises program code for inserting a date at which said new entry was added into said user status message.

15. (original) The computer program product of claim 14, wherein said program code for adding said new entry further comprises program code for inserting an identifier of a user associated with said request to edit said user status message.

16. (original) The computer program product of claim 15, said computer program further comprising:

program code for detecting a character string having a predetermined format within said new entry; and

program code for forming a link to a web page through said character having said predetermined format.

17. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising:

program code for creating a new web page on a predetermined server system responsive to said program code for detecting said character string having a predetermined format within said new entry, wherein said link to said web page comprises a link to said new web page, and wherein said new web page is an user editable web page.

18. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising:

program code for presenting an interface to said owner user associated with said user status message, wherein said interface enables said owner user to indicate at least one other user that is allowed to add an entry to said user status message; and

program code for preventing users other than said at least one other user and said owner user associated with said user status message from adding an entry to said user status message.

19. (currently amended) A computer system including a computer readable memory, said computer readable memory having program code for providing a user status message in an instant messaging system stored thereon, said program code comprising:

program code operable to obtain a user status message associated with an owner user;

program code operable to sense a user request to edit said user status message;

program code operable to provide a user interface for editing said user status messages, wherein said editing includes adding a new entry to said user status message;

program code operable to input, through said interface for adding said new entry to said user status message, information to include within said new entry; and

program code operable to add said new entry to said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry includes inserting a time at which said new entry was added into said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry to said user status message further includes adding said new entry to a plurality of previous entries maintained within said user status message, wherein said new entry and said previous entries together provide an editing history of said status message to other users.